hf happenings

New Radio Amateurs

The Radio Amateur Examination has now been completed, the papers have been marked and the results have been published on the League website. The South African Radio League Council would like to congratulate all the new Radio Amateurs and hope to soon hear them on air. Thank you very much too all the Invigilators and HF Assessors who did a sterling job in assuring that the RAE ran so smoothly.

Get on the **RaDAR**....and GO!

RₐDAR

GOES GLOBAL

RaDAR Challenge

The RaDAR "Challenge" is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. This challenge is for all licensed radio amateurs not limited to South Africa. A RaDAR operator can take part in any of the three defined categories, which may be changed at any time during the challenge. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable RaDAR operations, especially moveable RaDAR stations. Moveable RaDAR stations rely on fixed and portable stations as a point of contact using channelised frequencies. "Search and pounce" techniques are also allowed.

The RaDAR challenge starts at 00:00 UTC and ends at 23:59 UTC on Saturday 7 November 2015 - 24 hours will give equal opportunity to the international community of RaDAR operators. RaDAR operators can define their own operating time schedule or remain active for the full 24 hours. All amateur bands can be used including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites, and you can use CW, SSB, AM, FM or any legal digital mode. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will NOT be allowed. The recommended digital modes frequencies – refer to the South African Radio League Contest Manual, General Rule 15.

For the latest international list of frequencies, visit http://zs6bne.wordpress.com/2013/03/06/radar-calling-frequencies/. The WARC bands can be used considering this is a RaDAR Challenge and not a contest as such. It provides better opportunities for RaDAR contacts during difficult propagation conditions.

The RaDAR challenge requires more than a minimalistic information exchange. Accurate information exchange is considered more important than a large QSO count. Your call sign, name, RS(T) report, QTH and grid locator are exchanged. Note the grid locator can change as RaDAR operators are allowed to move position at any time. The grid locator of six characters is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 10 characters for higher position accuracy. Smartphone applications are generally used to establish more than a 6-character grid locator. If working non-participating stations, call sign, name, RST and QTH is acceptable.

1 point is earned per QSO. Individual QSOs – per mode, per band, per satellite, per call sign. If the moving RaDAR station has moved the required distance (see below) contact can be made with a previously worked station, again.

The following multipliers are applicable to determine the final score. If category/mode of transport changes were made during the challenge, than calculate accordingly.

x 1 – RaDAR Fixed station (at home or in another building)

x 2 – RaDAR Field station (portable – away from home)

x 3 – Moving RaDAR station – see modes of transport below.

Modes of transport and required movement distances (moving RaDAR stations only)

Vehicles, motorcycles and motorboats, etc., (motorised transport) – 6 km

Bicycles – 2 km

On foot and paddle canoes – 1 km

Wheelchairs – 500 m

Aeronautical mobile stations are considered moving stations and can communicate at any convenient time.

Note: Moving RaDAR stations can move at any time but are required to move to the next destination after five contacts have been made from the present location. The move needs to cover the required distance before further contacts are allowed to be made. This requirement tests the ability to rapidly re-deploy your amateur radio field station.

Bonus points (all categories) - Five (5) points (the equivalent of five QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital modes QSO involving a computer, smartphone or digital modes device. (For clarity thereafter 1 point per Satellite/Digital modes QSO).

Five (5) points for the first successful same continent RaDAR to RaDAR QSO (as may be confirmed by the extensive information exchange.

Five (5) points for the first intercontinental (DX) QSO

Ten (10) points for the first successful inter continental (DX) RaDAR to RaDAR QSO (As may be confirmed by the extensive information exchange).

Log sheets must be submitted by 17 November 2015 and sent by e-mail to edleighton@gmail.com. Contact Eddie, ZS6BNE, for a log sheet specifically designed for the 2015 RaDAR contest.

Note: A photo of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry. A

October

1 - SARL 80 metre QSO Party
2 – All schools close
3 – SARL Spring QRP Contest
4 – RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest
8 – Log submission for the SARL 80 m QSO Party
9 – Meet with Koos, ZR6KF, at the Oakdale ARC
10 – Amateur Radio in Action, Cape Town; log submission for the Spring QRP Contest
10 and 11 - AWA Valve QSO Party
12 - All schools open
15 – Radio Amateur Examination
16 to 18 – Jamboree-on-the-Air
17 – CQ Hou Koers
17 - Harrismith Mountain Race
http://www.amethyst.co.za/Harrismith/
24 – Crafters Market, Bloemfontein
24 and 25 – CQ WW DX Phone Contest

November

1 – All Saints Day; Cape Town International Kite Festival
7 – RaDAR Challenge; Winterton Street Festival
8 - Remembrance Sunday; PEARS HF Contest; the Big Walk, Cape Town
7 and 8 – International Police Association Contest
11 - Armistice Day; Diwali
10 to 21 – the GWK Cherry Festival in Ficksburg
28 and 29 – CQ WW DX CW Contest
29 – the 33rd Toy Run

photo is required for each new location that moveable stations visit. These photos are used to promote amateur radio and the RaDAR concept showing where amateur radio can be used to communicate from and in the many different ways.

The Pears HF DX Contest

The aim of the PEARS HF DX Contest is to encourage Southern African radio amateurs to work DX. The contest takes place on Sunday 8 November 2015 starting at 12:00 UTC and ending at 16:00 UTC and it is a phone only contest with activity on 20, 15 and 10 metres.

You can participate as a single operator, base or field station or a multi operator, base or field station. Stations may use the maximum power permitted according to the regulations in the country of operation.

The exchange is a call sign and RS report. One point is earned for each QSO. A station may be contacted once on each contest band Field stations must multiply their score by two (2) and a further multiplier of two (2) is available if the station uses a non-gain antenna with reference to a dipole. Then the score is multiplied by the number of countries contacted

Should more than three logs be received per category, a certificate will be awarded to the winner in each category.

Log sheets must be submitted by 22 November 2015 to the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 10402, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6015 or by e-mail to contest@peham.co.za. No late submissions will be considered

CQ Hou Koers, the Voortrekkers' national amateur radio communications day, took place on 17 October 2015. Fifteen Voortrekker groups from all over South Africa and one Voortrekker group from Namibia participated in the event. The Sasolburg Radio Club supported the event by having two young amateurs operate their celebratory call sign ZS50SRK. The Voortrekkers thank every radio amateur who took the time and made the effort to support young people during the event, as well as every Voortrekker Group for the enthusiastic participation. Please send logs to cq@orionvoortrekkers.co.za

Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet took place last weekend and Scouts and Guides across the country enjoyed talking via amateur radio with other young people. The Scouts and Guides and their leaders wish to thank all the radio amateurs involved with JOTA and JOTI.

Radio amateurs together with the Scout and Guide leaders are requested to submit a short report of their activities to compile a national JOTA/JOTI report. Please send your report to zs4bs@netactive.co.za by 1 November.

DXCC News

Sharon Taratula, Awards Manager at the ARRL Radiosport Department, reports that D44TUQ, the Cape Verde, 2015 operation, TZ4AM the Mali, 2015/16 operations and VK9LN, the Lord Howe Island, 2015/16 operations have been approved for DXCC credit.

African DX

Mozambique. John, ZS5J and Beth, 2W0VOW will be active until 3 November as C91B. Activity is on all the HF bands from 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. Daily logbook uploads are done to Logbook of the World and Club Log. More information is on QRZ.com.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Ascension Island, ZD8. After his activities from St Helena, Oliver, W6NV will travel to Ascension, IOTA AF-003 and be active from 6 November to 4 December as ZD8W, including participation in the CQ WW CW Contest. QSL via W6NV.

Equatorial Guinea - update. Ken, LA7GIA, who was expected to be active as 3C7GIA (pending) from Malabo Island (AF-010) between 12 and 23 November has announced it is now postponed (not cancelled). No new dates have been set yet. For updates, check http://la7gia.com/3c7gia/index.html

Juan de Nova. The team for next year's DXpedition to Juan de Nova (AF-012) now includes ten operators. They will be active as FT4JA from 31 March to 14 April, on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. The Chief Pilot will be F5UKW, who will collect, summarize and forward to the team on the island the feedback from the regional pilots - N5FG (Americas), ON9CFG (Europe and Africa) and JJ3PRT (Asia and Oceania). The latest press release (dated 22 October) is available on www.juandenovadx.com, along with information on the project and how to donate ("each donation brings us one step closer to Juan de Nova").

Guinea. The Italian DXpedition Team announced that the 3XY1T DXpedition will be active from 18 February to 4 March 2016 from Los Island, IOTA AF-051. Do not forget to participate in the 3XY1T survey on the DXpedition web site; the results will be used in the planning of activity on the various bands, visit http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/.

History this week
The week starting 26 October 2015

1517 - Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg's palace church, denouncing the selling of papal indulgences and questioning various ecclesiastical practices. This marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

1728 - British navigator James Cook (1728 - 1779) was born in Yorkshire, England (27 Oct)

1618 - British explorer Sir Walter Raleigh was executed in London for treason on orders from King James I

1886 - The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbour. The statue was a gift from the people of France commemorating the French-American alliance during the American Revolutionary War. Designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, the entire structure stands 92,9 meters tall.

1914 – Dr Jonas Salk (1914 - 1995) was born in New York City. In 1952, he developed a vaccine for the dreaded childhood disease Polio (poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis).

1929 - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed

1938 - The War of the Worlds radio broadcast panicked millions of Americans. Actor Orson Welles and the Mercury Players dramatized the story by H.G. Wells depicting a Martian invasion of New Jersey.

1940 - The Battle of Britain concluded. Beginning on 10 July 1940, German bombers and fighters had attacked coastal targets, airfields, London and other cities. British pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down over 1 700 German aircraft while losing 915 fighters. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," declared Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

1951 - Winston Churchill became Britain's prime minister for a second time, following his Conservative Party's narrow victory in general elections

1955 - Microsoft founder Bill Gates was born in Seattle, Washington (28 Oct)

1990 - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel

1993 - The European Union came into existence because of the Maastricht Treaty (1 Nov)

2941 (SR) - Bilbo finds and opens the Secret Door and later descends to Smaug's Cellar, steal a cup and returns (30 Nov)

2941 (SR) - An angered Smaug searches the mountain. Smaug attacks Lake-town (1 Nov)

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 26 October to 2 November 2015

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 October 2015
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activit ies/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activit ies/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 October
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 30 October 2015
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contes t_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 29 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 31 October 2015
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 28 October
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op Connected - open, low or open; Single Op Unconnected - open, low or open

Max power: Open: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 28 October 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:
http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80 m-contests-rules

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, SSB

19:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 October

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: 100 W; 10 W

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 5 November 2015

Upload log at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/rsprint.shtml

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 30 October

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 November 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 October

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 November 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Feld Hell Sprint

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 31 October

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 7 November 2015

Upload log at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/full-day-of-hell-sprint

Russian WW Multi Mode Contest

12:00 UTC 31 October to 11:59 UTC 1 November

Mode: CW, SSB, RTTY, BPSK63

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band Single Mode - CW, SSB, RTTY or BPSK63; Single Op All

Band - combinations of CW, SSB, RTTY or BPSK63; Single Op High Bands - combinations of CW, SSB, RTTY or BPSK63; Single Op Low Bands - combinations of CW, SSB, RTTY or BPSK63; Multi-Single - combinations of CW, SSB, RTTY or BPSK63; SWL

Exchange: UA: RST(Q) and 2-character oblast; non-UA: RST(Q) and QSO no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country on 20, 15 and 10 m; 3 points per QSO with different country same continent on 20, 15 and 10 m; 5 points per QSO with different continue on 20, 15 and 10 m; 2 points per QSO with same country on 160, 80 and 40 m; 6 points per QSO with different country same continent on 160, 80 and 40 m; 10 points per QSO with different continue on 160, 80 and 40 m

Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per mode per band; each oblast once per mode per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 November 2015

E-mail logs to: rusww@rdrclub.ru

Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.rdrclub.ru/news-radio/russian-ww-mm-contest/159-rus-ww-multimode-contest

High Speed Club CW Contest
09:00 - 11:00 UTC and 15:00 - 17:00 UTC 1 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: HSC Members; Non-Members; QRP; SWL

Max power: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Members: RST and HSC no; non-Members: RST and "NM"

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with a HSC member; 1 points per QSO with a non-member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 22 November 2015

E-mail logs to: joe@dl4cf.com

Mail logs to: Joe Vollbrecht, DL4CF, HSC Contest Manager, Steingasse 3, D-06642 Nebra, Germany

Find rules at: http://www.highspeedclub.org/

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 November

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 4 November

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 November

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 November

UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 November

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 5 November

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 6 November

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 November

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 November

IPARC CW Contest, 06:00 - 10:00 UTC and 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 7 November

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 7 November to 24:00 UTC 8 November

Ukrainian DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 7 November to 12:00 UTC 8 November

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW, 21:00 UTC 7 November to 03:00 UTC 9 November

NA Collegiate ARC Championship, CW, 21:00 UTC 7 November to 03:00 UTC 9 November

IPARC SSB Contest, 06:00 - 10:00 UTC and 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 8 November

EANET Sprint, 08:00 - 12:00 UTC 8 November

DARC 10-Metre Digital Contest, 11:00 - 17:00 UTC 8 November